GAVE "EXONERATION"

Steel Witness Calls Rockefeller Version of Alleged "Squeeze" Wrong.

Differing greatly with the Rockefeller retaion of teh deal, whereby the oil king is alleged to have "squeezed" the Marritt brothers, Minnesota "lumber acks," out of a fortune of some \$7,000,-000, Leonidas Merritt made answer toto the statement issued last night m 26 Broadway. In this statement Mr. Rockefeller denies the Merritts' story before the Steel investigating com-

"I hope Rockefeller will take advantage of his opportunity to appear be-fore the Stanley committee, as I did," Mr. Merritt. "I promise him he will not be insulted by my attorney as I was insulted by his.

We put into evidence the so-called exoneration of Mr. Rockefeller, in which we relieved him of the charge of nisrepresentation. It was signed to misrepresentation. It was signed to save the mite of our money left, as Rockefeller attorneys gaid, unless we signed this we would get nothing. We had no funds to fight it out in the courts, after Rockefeller had secured a reversal of my verdict against him for \$340,000.

"The whole story is this: I went to New York in 1893 with securities worth \$7,000,000; put them up for a loan of less than a million from John D., and within two months was told to walk back home to Duluth."

Cleared Big Profit.

Mr. Merritt says Mr. Rockefeller took his stock over at the rate of \$10 s share and that a few years later John D, turned it into the Steel trust at the statement issued last night

In the statement issued last night from No. 28 Broadway, "with authority of Mr. Rockefeller," it is denied the latter ever "cailed" a loan against the Merritt brothers. Mr. Rockefeller also quoted from an exoneration signed by the Merritt brothers and "all the other members of the family."

In this exoneration, dated January 22, 1897, at Duluth, the Merritts say they were mistaken in bringing into court charges of "misrepresentation and fraud by Rockefeller."

charges of "misrepresentation and fraud by Rockefeller."

The Merritts brought a copy of this compromise agreement before the Stan-ley committee. Under its terms it is understood the Merritts received \$525,000 from the oil king in settlement of all claims, the Minnesota ore men having tired of court proceedings. Leonidas Merritt was asked if he had signed such

Oh I don't know. I would sign almost anything in those days to recover some of my fortune," said Leonidas Merritt, rather wearily. "I was told I would receive nothing if I refused to sign a release such as Rockefeller suggested."

Saved Part of Fortune.

In this manner, Merritt declared, the family saved a fraction of the immense fortune with which he had gone to New York to ask Mr. Rockefeller's aid in financing his ore mines and railroad in financing his ore mines and railroad in the Mesaha range region. The Merritts were still ritter today against the Rev. F. T. Gates. Mr. Rockefeller's almoner, whom they charge with arranging the call lean only to notify them a few weeks later they might "walk the ties back home" unless they did Mr. Rockefeller's bidding.

The oll king's explanation of the Merritt deal is this:

"The facts with regard to the lean were as follows: The loans aggregating

were as follows: The loans aggregating \$420,000 were made by Mr. Rockefeller in various amounts during the summer of 1893. Mr. Rockefeller never called these loans. In February, 1894, the Merritt brothers being pressed by other creditors, applied to Mr. Rockefeller for further assistance,

Repurchase Option Given.

"Instead of calling his loan, as they charge, he furnished them an additional sum of \$480,000. They sold him 90,000 shares of stock at \$10 a share, amounting to \$900,000, the several members of the family contributing different proportions. For one-half of this, more than

tions. For one-half of this, more than enough to cover his loan to them, he gave to each of them an option to repurchase in a year at the price that they had sold it to him, with 6 per cent interest.

"Prior to the expiration of the year Alfred Merritt, one of the brothers who testified before 'he committee, brought suit against Mr. Rockefeller, and he and several of the others never endeavored to exercise the option.

"Another brother and nephew, at the expiration of the option, applied for an extension of it on their stock, which was given, and they subsequently took back their stock, amounting to 10,000 shares, and on the formation of the Steel Corporation sold it to that company."

Husband Is Acquitted On Wife-Murder Charge

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Nov. 24.-After thirty minutes' deliberation the jury in the case of George Golden, wealthy shoe merchant, of Wickboro, Pa., returned a verdict of not guilty. Golden shot and killed his wife on the night of July 18. He said he had mistaken her for a burglar. The prosecution alleged it was

Golden was arrested on complaint of his brother-in-law and released by the

his brother-in-law and released by the court of Armstrong county. He had himself indicted, and, obtaining a change of venue, went to trial here Monday.

The prosecution tried to show that Golden frequently quarreled with his wife and that she was about to expose affected questionable business methods of her husband.

Judge John D. Shafer in his charge said: "Gentlemen, it appears to me that the Commonwealth has not proven the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt."

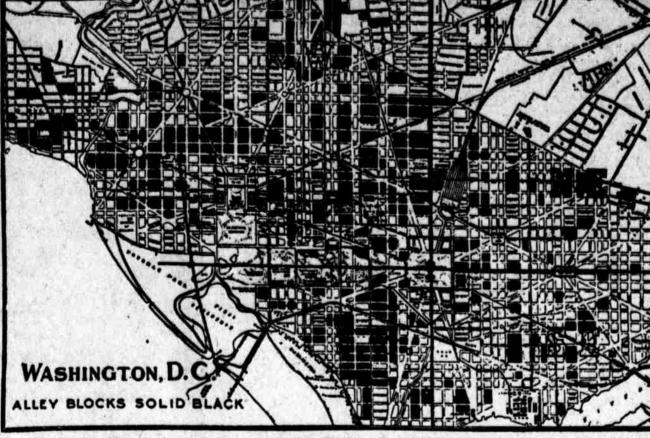
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Map Showing Alleys in Which Every Third Child Dies



Blocks in which there are inhabited alleys in Washington are shown in solid black on map. There are 258 such alleys in the city. Approximately 16,000 persons make their homes in these alleys. Many of the houses are in bad sanitary condition.

Reports compiled by Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, from the official records of the District, show that one child in every three born in the alley homes dies during the first year of its life. The mortality rate in children of the alleys is more than double that of the children born in street homes.

The Monday Evening Club is furnishing cards on which persons interested in the betterment of conditions can report bad living conditions. The housing committee of the Monday Evening Club in turn takes the matter up with the Commissioners.

Miss Contner Awarded Judgment for \$2,000

Six months after being injure1 in a street car collision, Miss Zelpha Contner, an employe of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, has been awarded a verdict for 2,000 damages by a jury in the circuit court of Montgomery count, Md., at Rockville.

Miss Contner's buggy was run down by a car on May 10 in Chevy Chase. She was thrown out and severely injured, She sued the Capital Traction Company for \$5,000 damages.

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nearest newsetand. If you are subscribing for it, it is no farther away than your reading table.

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Burns Says Witnesses Received Death Threats

NEW ORLEANS, La., Nov. 24.-That NEW ORLEANS, La., Nov. 24.—That the witnesses for the prosecution in the McNamara case have been threatened with death was the assertion made by Detective William J. Burns before the State secretaries section of the American Bankers' Association.

Before the death threats, Burns alleged, numberless efforts had been made by agents for the defense to bribe the State witnesses.

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Scottish Features

Bagpipe music and dancing in "kilties" will be features of the annual

WOMAN'S HOME

COMPANION

Some good stories at bargain prices

"The Five O'clock Train"

is the story of a girl who could not make up her mind. She promised the man who asked her to marry him, that if she was there to meet the five o'clock train to go home with him and get acquainted with his father and

mother, it would mean "yes." But there was another man. He, too, was

going home on the five o'clock train. The question is, which five o'clock train did the girl take. This story and the Woman's Home 15c

"When a Man Loves"

This particular man was about to marry one girl, but within four days of the wedding he fell in love with her bridesmaid and she with him. What could he do, and what did he do? This is a three-part story, and the first instalment is in the December number. Complete story, with three 45c

"The Boarding House Graphophone"

numbers of the Woman's Home Companion, costs

Boysie wanted it, and the boarders didn't.

Boysie gave it up, and the boarders got it.

What caused them to change their point of

view? This amusing and appropriately 15c illustrated story with the December 15c

WOMAN'S HOME

COMPANION

Chamber Members to Meet Superintendent and Tell Confidence.

Superintendent of Schools William M. Davidson will have in his administration the entirely friendly support of the public schools committee of the Washington Chamber of Commerce. This is the result of the first fail meeting of the schools committee, which was held last night at the rooms of the Chamber.

A motion authorizing the chairman of the committee, Dr. Arthur T. Ramsay, to extend an invitation to Dr. Davidson to meet the committee at its next session, and expressing confidence in the new superintendent of schools was unanimously adopted.

The city is most fortunate in the selection of its new superintendent of schools," said Dr. Ramsay "and I think we should let him know we are his friends and that we are ready to help in any way possible. I want the selection of the sommittee to find the members of the committee to know the man. He has a difficult task ahead of him, and I think this committee should assist him in working it out." The chairman also paid a tribute to Capt. James F. Oyster, president of the Board of Education, for his success in keeping harmony in the bord. The healirman also paid a tribute to Capt. James F. Oyster, president of the Board of Education, for his success in keeping harmony in the bord. The healirman also paid a tribute to Capt. James F. Oyster, president of the Board of Education, for his success in keeping harmony in the bord. The healirman also paid a tribute to Capt. James F. Oyster, president of the want of the schools and particularly of the want of the schools and particularly of Central High f hool in regard to safety from fire. No action will be taken by the committee committee music and dancing in "kill-be features of the appropriation for the subcommittee finishes its investigation.

The chairman also was authorised to ascertain whether the committee might do snything to assist in getting through the appropriation for the new Central High School building.

Temperance Campaign. ties" will be features of the annual banquet of the Scottish St. Andrew's Society, to be held December 15, at Rauscher's, according to announcements made at a meeting of the society last night at 700 Tenth street northwest. Oat cakes and other viands dear to the hearts of highland laddies will be provided at the banquet.

Under the leadership of new officers a vigorous temperance campaign is planned by the Georgetown W. C. T. U. The new officers were chosen last evening. They are President, Mrs. Zed H. Copp: vice president, Mrs. Paul Richmond: secretary, Mrs. Emma Brewton; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Katherine Burton, and treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Schinnick.

children

Children are certainly woman's home companions. There are some in nearly every Companion home. A certain part of Woman's Home Companion is edited expressly for children. In the Christmas number there are Christmas presents that you can make for the children; there are Christmas presents children are Christmas presents children can make for you and their friends; there is a whole page of dolls' clothes designed by some of the best fashion designers in the country (they are the very latest fashions in dolls' clothes); there is a department for mothers of young children entitled, "The Professional Mother." There is something for children of all ages in every number of the

WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION

The Jack and Betty Book

has delighted every child who has seen it. In EVERY number of the Companion there is bound in a page which can be made into a cut-ou book, "The Adventures of Jack and Betty." No child has been able to resist the fascination of this book First comes the pleasure of making the book, next the pleasure of following the adventures of Jack and Betty through the book, and finally the pleasure of giving the book to some less fortunate child. Your little folks simply must see "The ladventures of Jack and Betty" in the Christmas number of the

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The Woman's Home Companion contains full-page pictures for framing, reproduced by a special process on rough art paper. These pictures are as good in subject and execution as many that are sold in art stores for the price of a year's subscription to WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION

The woman who makes her own clothes as well as the woman who wants the latest fashion suggestions for use

as well as the woman who wants the latest fashion suggestions for use in conference with her own dressmaker will find the departments of fashions not only helpful but a necessity. Grace Margaret Gould, the editor of the Fashion Department, is one of the fashion authorities of the world. What she says is right. The ideas furnished for gowns, hats, wraps, underwear and other belongings of dress are frequently and one of them worth the cost of a year's subscription to the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION

Get the Christmas number of WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION



It is a whole department store full of bargains. There are a hundred suggestions in every number worth 15 cents. Some of them could easily be worth 15 dollars. Economical buying is spending money in the right place, where you get the largest amount for your money. 15 cents spent for the Christmas number of the Woman's Home Companion will be a good investment. 15c

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"Man is what he cats," says a wise philosopher.

Yes. And he is also how he eats, and when, and where.

He is a better man in several ways for sitting down regularly to an attractive well-ordered table; and eating one of

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